ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LONGTOWN

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

For the Year ending 31st December, 1893,

BY

DR. S. F. MC.LACHLAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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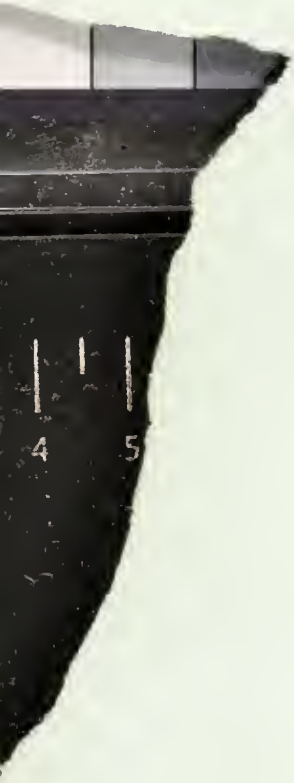
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LONGTOWN, February, 1894.

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Longtown Rural Sanitary Authority,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1893.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to lay before you the tables of births, deaths, and new cases of infectious sickness, as required by the Local Government Board.

The total number of deaths registered in our district during 1893 has been 114, 57 being males and 57 females, which are equal to a death-rate of 15.87 per thousand per annum. In 1892 the deaths were 123, and the death-rate 17.12. Of those under one year of age there were 16 deaths, with a rate of 2.22; last year 23 deaths, rate 3.20. Between one and five years of age 3 deaths, rate 0.41; last year 6 deaths, rate 0.83. Of those sixty-five years of age and upwards, 47 deaths, rate 6.54, last year 54 deaths, rate 7.52.

The total births during 1893 have been 179; 86 being males and 93 females, which are equal to a birth-rate of 24.92; last year there were 180 births; 80 being males and 100 females, with a birth-rate of 25.06.

In the High District the number of deaths was 24, and the births 43; the death-rate being 11 30. Last year the number of deaths was 29, and the rate 13.65. Of children under five years of age there were 2 deaths, with a rate of 0.94; last year the number was 9, and the rate 1.23. Of those sixty-five years of age and upwards, there were 10 deaths, rate 4 70; last year 12 deaths, rate 5.65.

In the Low District, including the Workhouse, the number of deaths was 90, and the births 136, the death-rate being 17.79. Last year the number was 94, and the rate 18.58. In the Low District, excluding the Workhouse, there were 81 deaths, with a rate of 16.12; last year the number was 85, rate 16.91. Of children under five years of age, 17 deaths, rate 3.36; last year 20 deaths, rate 3.95. Of those sixty-five years of age and upwards, 37 deaths, rate 7.31; last year 42 deaths; rate 8.30.

In Longtown there were 29 deaths, with a rate of 17 30; last year the number was 40, and the rate 23.86. Of children under five years of age 9 deaths, rate 5.37; last year 10 deaths, rate 5.91. Of those of sixty-five years of age and upwards 3 deaths, rate 1.78;

last year 15 deaths, rate 8.95. The following are the causes of death :—senile decay 1, diseases of respiratory organs 5, diseases of digestive organs 3, disease of kidneys 2, diseases of bladder 1, diseases of heart 4, diseases of nervous system 3, phthisis 3, cancer 2, rheumatism 1, diphtheria 1, influenza 1, premature birth 1, accident 1.

The following table shews the number of deaths and the rate per thousand in Longtown since 1881 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate.
1881	36	20.27
1882	36	20.27
1883	41	23.08
1884	29	16.32
1885	39	21.95
1886	40	22.22
1887	36	20.00
1888	24	13.51
1889	41	22.77
1890	48	26.66
1891	40	23.86
1892	40	23.86
1893	29	17.30

The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases during 1893 has been 9, viz. :—diphtheria 2, typhoid fever 2, puerperal fever 3, erysipelas 1, measles 1. The death-rate per thousand being 1.25 ; last year 7 deaths, rate 0.97.

Table shewing the number of deaths and the rate per thousand rom zymotic diseases since 1881 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate.
1881	7	0.90
1882	14	1.81
1883	10	1.28
1884	4	0.51
1885	5	0.64
1886	14	1.78
1887	9	1.14
1888	7	0.88
1889	5	0.63
1890	9	1.13
1891	10	1.39
1892	7	0.97
1893	9	1.25

Table of deaths from phthisis, and the rate per thousand since 1882 :—

Year.		No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1882	...	20	...	2.59
1883	...	20	...	2.57
1884	...	20	..	2.56
1885	...	18	...	2.31
1886	...	13	...	1.66
1887	...	10	...	1.27
1888	...	13	...	1.64
1889	...	17	...	2.14
1890	...	14	...	1.76
1891	...	14	...	1.94
1892	...	14	...	1.94
1893	...	9	...	1.25

Table shewing the number of deaths, and the rate per thousand from pulmonary diseases, including phthisis :—

Year.		No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1882	...	35	...	4.54
1883	...	59	..	7.60
1884	...	34	..	4.38
1885	...	43	...	5.52
1886	...	46	...	5.87
1887	...	25	...	3.18
1888	...	34	...	4.30
1889	...	33	...	4.16
1890	...	40	...	5.05
1891	...	41	...	5.70
1892	...	36	...	5.01
1893	...	26	...	3.62

The lowest death-rate during 1893 occurred in Stapleton, there being 5 deaths, with a rate of 6.41. The highest death-rate occurred in Scaleby, there being 10 deaths, and a rate of 25.77. In Nicholforest, 10 deaths, rate 18.38. In Bewcastle, 9 deaths, rate 11.25. In Arthuret, including the Workhouse, 46 deaths, rate 18.86. In Arthuret, excluding the Workhouse, 37 deaths, rate 15.35. In Kirklinton, 21 deaths, rate 14.60. In Kirkandrews, 13 deaths, rate 16.41.

The following table shews the total number of deaths and the rate per thousand since 1881 :—

Year.		No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1881	...	124	...	16.08
1882	...	126	...	16.34
1883	...	143	...	18.34

Year.		No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1884	...	121	...	15.60
1885	...	134	...	17.21
1886	...	155	...	19.97
1887	...	118	...	15.02
1888	...	123	...	15.57
1889	...	124	...	15.65
1890	...	152	...	19.18
1891	...	124	...	17.26
1892	...	123	...	17.12
1893	...	114	...	15.87

The statistics for 1893 show a decided improvement in the number of deaths and the death-rate. There have been fewer deaths than in any year since 1881, though the death-rate in 1893 is slightly higher than in 1884, 1887, 1888, and 1889, this being due to the decrease in population. A notable decrease has taken place in the number of deaths from phthisis (consumption), the average number for the last eleven years being nearly 16, against 9 this year. I think this may be attributed to the attention which of late years has been given to ventilation, and the necessity for a dry soil and dwellings as factors in the prevention of this scourge. It is also very satisfactory to record the improvement in the number of deaths in Longtown, there having been 29, whereas the average number for the last twelve years has been 37½. There is a diminution in the deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, and an increase in those due to diseases of the heart. There is a slight decrease in the number of deaths due to cancer, 6 this year, against 8 in 1891 and 1892. There were two deaths among persons not belonging to the district, which makes the corrected number 112 and the rate 15.59. Of the 114 deaths for the year, there were 18 eighty years of age and upwards, two being 90 and upwards.

Deaths Registered from Different Causes during the Year 1893.

Cause of Death.	Number.
Senile Decay	10
Diseases of Nervous System	12
,, ,, Respiratory Organs	17
,, ,, Kidneys	4
,, ,, Digestive Organs	7
,, ,, Heart	17
,, ,, Liver	3
,, ,, Blood	2
,, ,, Bladder	1

Cause of Death.	Number.
Strumous Diseases	3
Phthisis (Consumption)	9
Cancer	6
Influenza	4
Puerperal Fever	3
Typhoid Fever	2
Rheumatic Fever	1
Diphtheria	2
Measles	1
Erysipelas	1
Dementia	1
Hæmorrhage	1
Premature Births	5
Injuries	2
Total	114

I append a few details regarding infectious diseases that occurred during the year :—

Scarlet Fever.

I met with 39 cases—19 in the High District, 17 in the Low District, and 3 in Workhouse, of which 2 occurred in Longtown (1 in November and the other in December), 3 in Arthuret 6 in Stapleton, 13 in Bewcastle, and 12 in Kirkandrews. The cases in Arthuret and Kirkandrews occurred among children attending Moat School. The origin of the infection was not clearly traced, but was supposed to have been brought from Aspatria by a boy visiting in the neighbourhood. As so many children were away from school, I advised it to be closed, which was done. As four of the cases in Bewcastle occurred in April in the house of the Schoolmaster of Park School, the Board closed it for a time. Seven of the cases in Bewcastle occurred in one family at Bailliemill. In all cases the children in the house where fever was were kept from school till free from infection, and Inspector had attended to disinfection

Measles.

I met with 15 cases at Mossedge in June, an extension of the epidemic prevalent in Brampton. I also met with a few cases in Nicholforest and in Westlinton.

Erysipelas.

Two cases occurred in Longtown of a mild type.

Puerperal Fever.

Two cases were reported as occurring in the High District under conditions peculiar to the patients.

Typhoid Fever.

Eight cases were reported, one at Barracks, Stapleton, which, on investigation, nothing could be discovered to account for it. Seven cases occurred at Lowparkfoot, Stapleton. On investigation I found the following state of matters :—In the loft used as a bedroom the windows very small, and do not open for ventilation ; at front of house not proper paving or channelling to allow liquid manure to get away, but instead, runs so far in an open channel and then stands stagnating and smelling. At the back door there is a cesspool and drain which runs below the milk house and appears as an open drain close to the window of milk house. The cesspool and drain I found choked up with black smelling sludge. This state of matters has been remedied.

Diphtheria.

Seven cases reported, two in Scaleby and five in Longtown. The two cases at Scaleby Hill occurred in children who came from near Haltwhistle, where there was diphtheria. The cases in Longtown occurred among children attending school, the first on 9th December, followed by three in another family, one on 17th and two on 19th December. The fifth case on 30th December in another family. As it was so near the holidays, on my advice the Board promptly closed the School on 19th. In company with your Inspector I visited the School, and found an old drain passing under it ; found that liquid from boys' urinal did not pass into drain to carry it away to main sewer, but passed into the surrounding soil ; found that the pit and cesspool where all the excrement from the School is deposited is not emptied sufficiently frequently ; found that there are no boxes in privies in connection with Infants' School. At a Meeting of the School Board the various sanitary defects were pointed out, and the Board agreed to have them remedied, which has been done, with the exception of cesspool, where arrangements have not yet been completed to have it emptied weekly as advised.

During the year I reported at your monthly meetings the sanitary work which was being carried on in the district ; also all cases of infectious disease, which required repeated visitation with regard to disinfection, and instructing parents when their children might safely return to school.

The Inspector's report books show a large number of inspections made and nuisances abated.

Nine new privies have been erected during the year.

Several houses where there was an absence of ventilation in some of the apartments have been remedied.

Two cottages damp from a drain not being in working order, a four-inch sewer pipe was put in, and the rooms are now dry. In a property in Longtown which was flooded with water in wet weather, has been sewered and connected with main sewer with beneficial results. In a house where the roof and back of house were falling in; this has been built up and properly repaired. In another house where the roof, a thatched one, was out of repair and rain getting in, this has been re-roofed with slates. Another house which was damp has been spouted and drained with satisfactory results. I reported a house at Roadhead where there was no water supply and no privy. The owner prefers closing the house to having anything done. I reported in June that the bedrooms and parlour at Row, Stapleton, were very damp; also that the water was not fit for use. Nothing as yet has been done. I also reported the want of ventilation in rooms at Bailliemill, and that the kitchen and bedrooms were damp. The owner has promised to have it attended to this spring.

Water Supply.

In company with your Inspector I investigated the Longtown water supply. There were 333 houses with a good supply of water from 90 pumps, 122 houses with a defective supply, viz.: 36 houses with 9 pumps out of order, 47 with no water supply, 25 where arrangements are made for supply from other pumps, 12 where tree was broken off by ground, 1 where water is discoloured, 1 where the tree is being repaired. In a number of the cases referred to the pumps have been put in order, but there are still houses without any supply except from neighbours, where it is liable to be stopped at any time. The water supply at Brownrigg, referred to in my report last year as being unfit for use, has been remedied, and is now provided with a plentiful supply of good water. At Lynebank, where there was no water supply, owner provided a supply by sinking a well. The want of water at Kinkry Hill which I reported, and for which notices were served, the time has not yet expired. The want of a proper supply of water within a reasonable distance at Mossedge and Polton Fell, referred to in my reports for 1887, 1888, and 1889, is now in a fair way of being provided with a plentiful supply of good water. A step in the right direction

was taken when Mr. Graham brought the water to his property at Lodgehill. Some of the other owners are about to sink for water on their own account, and it is to be hoped the others may soon come to a satisfactory arrangement to have their tenants supplied.

The Common Lodging Houses and Slaughter Houses have been regularly inspected and reported on, and kept in fairly good order

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. MCLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Longtown Rural Sanitary Authority.